Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0016], [0024], [0032], and [0036] to [0039] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0016] FIG. 3A and 3B show[[s]] how the integral guard prevents excessive force from being applied;

[0024] Referring now to FIG. 1, it may be seen that a paint roller of the prior art adapted for painting surface corners generally comprises a frustoconically-shaped applicator 110 with two opposite ends, 120, 130. One of these ends has a coupler 122 while the other end 130 has a planar cross-section ~~smaller~~ larger planar cross-section of the end 120 with the coupler 122. The coupler end 120 is disposed centrally relative to the planar cross- sections of both ends 120, 130 and permits the applicator to rotate about an axis 140.

[0032] The diameter of this circular integral guard is carefully predetermined such that the paint-absorbable member is not unduly compressed during application of the paint. In FIG. 3, the longitudinal cross-sectional views of the invention shows how the integral guard 260 can limit the compression of the paint-absorbable member 252. Under correct use, a normal application force will not cause the integral guard 260 to contact the surface to be painted (FIG. 3A). Should an excessive force be applied by the user, the edge of integral guard will come into contact with the surface being painted [[300]] (FIG. 3B) and prevent the paint absorbable member 252 from being overly compressed.

[0036] The chamber is accessible by means of a closable inlet 232, of a fixed diameter, in the distal end [[232]] 230. A rolling guide 280 with a central orifice 282 of diameter larger than the inlet diameter is disposed coaxially over the distal end 230 of the applicator. A resilient means 290 is radially disposed about the center of the rolling guide 280. In this preferred embodiment, the resilient guide is made of a suitable material such as elastomer, and is shaped like a washer-like perforated disk as shown in FIG. 4.

[0037] The circumference of the resilient means coacts with the rolling guide as the resilient means contacts the circular wall 284 that forms the central orifice 282 of the rolling guide 280. The resilient means 290 is held in place by the flange 292 of a detachable retainer 294 that secures to the distal end 230. This securing is possible as the detachable retainer 294 has engagement lugs 296 that engage complementary lugs 234 in the internal walls of the inlet [[230]] 232. The wall 298 of the internal diameter of the resilient means 290 contacts the external wall of the retainer [[292]] 294 without interfering with the action of the engagement lugs 296.

[0038] To use this embodiment of the present invention, paint is introduced into the reservoir 270 through the closable inlet 232 and the retainer [[292]] 294. The inlet is then closed with a cap 299 that reversibly engages the retainer [[292]] 294 such that a liquid-tight seal is achieved. The paint then flows through perforations 272 in the external surface to permeate the paint-absorbable member (not shown for clarity).

[0039] A person skilled in the art will appreciate that the presence of the resilient means sandwiched between the rolling guide and the retainer [[292]] 294 allows the rolling guide to move eccentrically relative to the axis of the applicator, within a certain range of motion.